

## Message Text

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PAGE 01    WARSAW 07165 01 OF 02 171525Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 SP-02 HA-05 /051 W  
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R 171402Z AUG 78  
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TO SECSTATE 6840  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 7165

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR SOPN PL VT  
SUBJ: POLISH REPORTING ON PAPAL FUNERAL AND SUCCESSION; OFFICIAL  
REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL

REF: STATE 205941

1. THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOP AT THE FUNERAL OF  
POPE PAUL VI WERE ZDZISLAW TOMAL, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
PEASANTS' PARTY, MINISTER KAZIMIERZ KAKOL, DIRECTOR  
OF THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, AND JAN  
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PAGE 02    WARSAW 07165 01 OF 02 171525Z

DOBRACZYNSKI, A CATHOLIC WRITER WHO IS A MEMBER OF  
THE PRESIDUM OF THE FRONT OF NATIONAL UNITY.

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH COUNCIL OF STATE HENRYK  
JABLONSKI SENT A LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO JEAN  
CARDINAL VILLOT, CHAMBERLAIN OF THE VATICAN, ON  
AUGUST 7. "THE SERVICES OF THE DECEASED POPE",

JABLONSKI'S MESSAGE READ, "FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD AND ALSO HIS RELATIONS TOWARD THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC WON FOR HIM THE RESPECT OF THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES AND THE POLISH PEOPLE." ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CZYREK ALSO SENT A CONDOLENCE TELEGRAM TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL SECRETARY CASAROLI.

3. THE POLISH SECULAR PRESS COVERED THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW POPE DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7 TO 14. MOST POLISH DAILIES RAN THREE-TO-FIVE PARAGRAPH DISPATCHES FROM WALDEMAR KEDAJ, ROME CORRESPONDENT OF THE POLISH NEWS AGENCY (PAP). KEDAJ PROVIDED STRAIGHT ACCOUNTS OF THE FUNERAL OF THE POPE AND THE MECHANICS OF THE ELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR. POLISH TELEVISION LIKEWISE PROVIDED STRAIGHTFORWARD AND MODERATELY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE FUNERAL.

4. COMMENT ON THE LATE POPE'S CAREER WAS ENTIRELY FAVORABLE AND STRESSED IN PARTICULAR STEPS HE UNDERTOOK TO NORMALIZE VATICAN RELATIONS WITH THE "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE IN THE WORLD. KEDAJ, IN HIS AUGUST 14 REPORT, WROTE: "THE 15 YEAR PONTIFICATE OF POPE PAUL VI BROUGHT NUMEROUS DECISIONS--SUCH AS THE NORMALIZATION OF THE LEGAL-CHURCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03    WARSAW 07165 01 OF 02 171525Z

STATUS OF THE POLISH DIOCESES IN THE WEST AND NORTH OF THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS THE SETTLING OF THEIR BOUNDARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ODER-NIESSE BORDER -- WHICH OPENED THE ROAD OF DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE WITH OUR OWN COUNTRY."

5. EDITORIALIST RYSZARD DRECKI WROTE ON AUGUST 8 IN TRYBUNA LUDU, THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY (PZPR), THAT "ONE OF THE SYMBOLS OF THE SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD OF THE SLOGANS OF DETENTE WAS THE PERSON AND ACTIVITY OF THE DECEASED POPE PAUL VI...HE REJECTED THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ATTITUDES CHARACTERISTIC OF PREVIOUS PONTIFICATES AND LOOKED AT THE WORLD REALISTICALLY, AS IT EXISTS IN FACT. PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING THE PONTIFICATE OF THE DECEASED POPE IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE APOSTOLIC SEE WAS AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD."

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PAGE 01      WARSAW 07165 02 OF 02 171524Z  
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TO SECSTATE 6841  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 7165

6. ADAM WYSOCKI, IN THE AUGUST 8 ISSUE OF ZYCIE WAR-SZAWY, A MASS CIRCULATION WARSAW DAILY, WROTE THAT THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI "IS A GREAT LOSS." ACCORDING TO WYSOCKI, POPE PAUL, "THE CONTINUATOR OF THE REALISTIC POLICY OF POPE JOHN XXIII", RESISTED PRESSURE OF CONSERVATIVES AND COLD WARRIORS IN IMPROVING CHURCH RELATIONS WITH "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES: "WE REMEMBER THE CLOSE AND HEARTFELT PERSONAL CONNECTION THE DECEASED POPE HAD WITH OUR COUNTRY, WITH WARSAW WHERE HIS MINISTRY BEGNA." ABOVE ALL, WYSOCKI CONTINUED, POPE PAUL WORKED FOR PEACE: "THE WORLD WILL NOT FORGET THAT POPE PAUL, DESPITE HIS EVER-WORSENING HEALTH, UNTIL HIS LAST MOMENTS NEVER SPARED STRENGTH OR PERSONAL CONCERN TO EASE,  
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PAGE 02      WARSAW 07165 02 OF 02 171524Z

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, EXISTING QUARRELS AND DISAGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO REMOVE CONTRADICTIONS AND...TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS FOR MILLION OF PEOPLE OF ALL RACES AND ON ALL CONTINENTS."

7. COVERAGE OF THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL WAS PREDICTABLY MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE IN SLOWO POWSZECHNE, A DAILY NEWSPAPER PUT OUT BY PAX, A GOVERNMENT APPROVED CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION. THE PAPER FEATURED ELABORATE ACCOUNTS FROM ITS ROME CORRESPONDENT ZYGMUNT TYSZKA RATHER THAN PAP REPORTS, BUT THE THEMES WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WERE STRUCK IN THE REST OF THE POLISH PRESS: THE POPE'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO POLAND, HIS SERVICE TO PEACE, AND HIS DIPLOMATIC OPENING TO THE EAST. SLOWO POWSZECHNE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE POLISH EPISCOPATE ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL (ZYCIE WARSZAWY PUBLISHED THE STATEMENT IN FULL AUGUST 9 ON ITS SECOND PAGE; TRYBUNA LUDU RAN A SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT BELOW THE LETTER OF CONDOLENCE FROM LEONID BREZHNEV TO CARDINAL VILLOT). IN ADDITION SLOWO POWSZECHNE PUBLISHED EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI'S AUGUST 10 HOMILY DELIVERED AT A MASS IN HONOR OF POPE PAUL. (PUBLICATION OF THE TEXTS OF SERMONS IS VERY RARE IN THE OFFICIAL PRESS.) SLOWO HAS CONTINUED TO COVER PREPARATION FOR THE CONCLAVE WHILE OTHER POLISH PAPERS HAVE, FOR THE TIME BEING, DROPPED THE STORY, BUT WITH NO SPECULATION ON THE IDENTITY OF THE SUCCESSOR TO POPE PAUL.

8. TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY, AN INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC WEEKLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03     WARSAW 07165 02 OF 02 171524Z

SUBJECT OF HEAVY STATE CENSORSHIP, IN ITS AUGUST 13 ISSUE MENTIONED POPE PAUL'S OSTPOLITIK ONLY IN PASSING, STRESSING INSTEAD THE POPE'S SPECIAL LOVE FOR POLAND, HIS EFFORTS FOR PEACE, AND HIS ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE SOCIAL, MORAL, AND ECCLESIASTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HE, AS HEAD OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, CONFRONTED DURING THE "UNBELIEVABLY DIFFICULT" PERIOD OF HIS PONTIFICATE. SCHAUFEL

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## Message Attributes

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